REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-6 have been amended. Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the Priority Document.

Specification

Enclosed is a Substitute Specification as required by the Examiner. Also included is a Marked-Up copy of the Substitute Specification indicating the changes made thereto. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been entered via the Substitute Specification. The Examiner is respectfully requested to grant approval and entry of the Substitute Specification.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims have been amended to improve antecedent and form. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and thus respectfully urges the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Luther reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,555,343). This rejection, insofar as it may pertain to the presently pending claims, is traversed for the following reasons.

The voice synthesis apparatus of claim 1 includes in combination a first detection module "that detects a paragraph section having a recurrent string pattern based on a character column in one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols"; and a voice synthesis module "for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting the paragraph section from the character column". Applicant respectfully submits that the Luther reference as relied upon by the Examiner does not disclose these features.

As described beginning in column 5, line 46 of the Luther reference with respect to step S303 as illustrated in Fig. 3(a), an "action token" is detected, whereby the "action token" refers to a special character such as a vertical bar by which a scripting program which includes text narration to be converted into speech can command certain actions to be taken, such as commanding an image file to be inserted onto a monitor, commanding digitized sound to be played over a speaker, commanding MIDI music to be played, etc.

As described beginning in column 6, line 47 of the Luther reference with respect to step S306 as illustrated in Fig. 3(a), it is determined whether there are non-spoken characters that are associated with intonation and/or speed commands such as shown

in the table of Fig. 4(b).

As described beginning in column 7, line 15 of the Luther reference with respect to step S315 as illustrated in Fig. 3(b), it is determined whether the non-spoken characters form part of a formatted string of characters such as shown in the table of Fig. 4(c). The table includes format templates which comprise wild card fields that may be provided for several different formats such as computer file designation formats, dates, time-of-day, etc.

As further described beginning in column 7, line 60 of the Luther reference with respect to step S319, it is determined whether the non-spoken characters are non-spoken punctuation marks as shown in the table of Fig. 4(d).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Luther reference as noted above does not include a first detection module "that detects a paragraph section having a recurrent string pattern, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols", as would be necessary to meet the features of claim 1. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the voice synthesis apparatus of claim 1 distinguishes over the Luther reference as relied upon by the Examiner, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 1-3, is improper for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the

corresponding rejections, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for
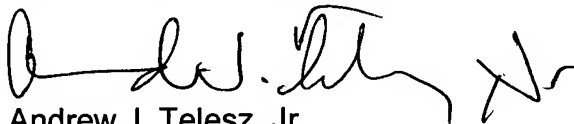
at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present

application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720

in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant hereby

petitions for an extension of one (1) month to November 26, 2005, for the period in

which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of $120.00

should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and

future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit

any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Substitute Specification
Marked-Up Substitute Specification